

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of Claims:

1. (previously amended) A method for producing improved cold band suitable for drawing or ironing process, with a carbon content of less than 0.5 weight percent, said cold band having two surfaces, the method comprising the steps of:
 - rolling the cold band under a cold-rolling ratio of at least 30% and less than 95%;
 - annealing the cold band by a thermal treatment in an annealing furnace; and
 - coating the cold band on at least one of the surfaces,wherein the annealing step occurs in the form of annealing of the band in a continual annealing furnace and
 - wherein the annealing step occurs at a temperature of more than 911°C and, therefore, at any rate above the limit temperature of the two-phase range ferrite/austenite (α/γ range in the iron-carbon system) to austenite range (γ range in the iron-carbon system), wherein a first coating step occurs before the annealing step, and after the annealing step, a second coating is deposited on the band.
- 2-3. (cancelled)
4. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein, after the annealing, an additional coating of the band occurs using organic ingredients to enhance the brittleness of the coating.
5. (previously presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the organic ingredients are brighteners.
6. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein conductive particles are embedded into the coating.
7. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the coating is covered with a ~~dispersion-hardened coating~~ dispersion layer containing conductive particles.

8-14. (cancelled)

15. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the coating step is a galvanic process.

16. (previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the coating contains nickel.

17. (previously presented) The method of claim 15 wherein the coating contains cobalt.

18. (previously presented) The method of claim 15 wherein the coating contains iron.

19. (previously presented) The method of claim 15 wherein the coating contains bismuth.

20. (previously presented) The method of claim 15 wherein the coating contains indium.

21. (previously presented) The method of claim 15 wherein the coating contains palladium.

22. (previously presented) The method of claim 15 wherein the coating contains gold.

23. (previously presented) The method of claim 15 wherein the coating contains at least two elements selected from the group consisting of: nickel, cobalt, iron, bismuth, indium, palladium, and gold.

24. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the second coating step is made by electroplating.

25. (previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the coating comprises nickel.
26. (previously presented) The method of claim 24 wherein the coating comprises cobalt.
27. (previously presented) The method of claim 24 wherein the coating comprises iron.
28. (previously presented) The method of claim 24 wherein the coating comprises bismuth.
29. (previously presented) The method of claim 24 wherein the coating comprises indium.
30. (previously presented) The method of claim 24 wherein the coating comprises palladium.
31. (previously presented) The method of claim 24 wherein the coating comprises gold.
32. (previously presented) The method of claim 24 wherein the coating comprises at least two elements selected from the group consisting of: nickel, cobalt, iron, bismuth, indium, palladium, and gold.
33. (previously presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the organic ingredients introduced into the coating are the decomposition products of organic substances in an electrolyte bath.

34. (previously presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the organic ingredients introduced into the coating are the reaction products of organic substances in an electrolyte bath.
35. (previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein, after the annealing, an additional coating of the band occurs using organic ingredients to enhance the brittleness of the coating.
36. (previously presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the organic ingredients introduced into the coating are the decomposition products of organic substances in an electrolyte bath.
37. (previously presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the organic ingredients introduced into the coating are the reaction products of organic substances in an electrolyte bath.
38. (previously presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the organic ingredients are brighteners.
39. (previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the conductive particles comprise carbon.
40. (previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the conductive particles comprise carbon black.
41. (previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the conductive particles comprise graphite.
42. (previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the conductive particles comprise TaS₂.

43. (previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the conductive particles comprise TiS_2 .

44. (previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the conductive particles comprise MoSi_2 .

45. (previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the conductive particles comprise carbon.

46. (previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the conductive particles comprise carbon black.

47. (previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the conductive particles comprise graphite.

48. (previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the conductive particles comprise TaS_2 .

49. (previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the conductive particles comprise TiS_2 .

50. (previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the conductive particles comprise MoSi_2 .

51-79. (cancelled)

80. (previously presented) A method for producing improved cold band suitable for drawing or ironing process, with a carbon content of less than 0.5 weight percent, said cold band having two surfaces, the method comprising the steps of:

rolling the cold band under a cold-rolling ratio of at least 30% and less than 95%;
annealing the cold band by a thermal treatment in an annealing furnace; and

coating the cold band on at least one of the surfaces,
wherein the annealing step occurs in the form of annealing of the band in a
continual annealing furnace before or after the coating and
wherein the annealing step occurs at a temperature of more than 911°C and,
therefore, at any rate above the limit temperature of the two-phase range ferrite/austenite
(α/γ range in the iron-carbon system) to austenite range (γ range in the iron-carbon
system) and
wherein conductive particles are embedded into the coating.

81. (currently amended) A method for producing improved cold band suitable for
drawing or ironing process, with a carbon content of less than 0.5 weight percent, said
cold band having two surfaces, the method comprising the steps of:

rolling the cold band under a cold-rolling ratio of at least 30% and less than 95%;
annealing the cold band by a thermal treatment in an annealing furnace; and
coating the cold band on at least one of the surfaces,
wherein the annealing step occurs in the form of annealing of the band in a
continual annealing furnace before or after the coating and
wherein the annealing step occurs at a temperature of more than 911°C and,
therefore, at any rate above the limit temperature of the two-phase range ferrite/austenite
(α/γ range in the iron-carbon system) to austenite range (γ range in the iron-carbon
system) and
wherein the coating is covered with a ~~dispersion-hardened coating~~ dispersion
layer containing conductive particles.